

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ORDER NO. 2698

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served April 18, 1985

Investigation of INTERSTATE)
TAXICAB RATES for Service within)
the Metropolitan District)

Case No. MP-85-07

The Commission has the duty to prescribe reasonable rates for interstate transportation by taxicab within the Metropolitan District. 1/ Such rates may be set on a mileage basis, a zone basis, or any other basis approved by the Commission, except that the Commission may not require meters where they are not already permitted or required. 2/

Taxicabs licensed by Prince George's County and Montgomery County, Md., and the City of Alexandria, the City of Falls Church, Arlington County and Fairfax County, Va., are equipped with meters which use a mileage-time basis for determining local fares. The taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia are not equipped with meters and use a zone basis to determine local fares.

Where feasible and appropriate, the Commission has adopted the local taxicab rates as the interstate rates. Thus, we require locally licensed and regulated metered taxicabs to use their meters for fare determination on interstate taxicab trips. 3/ Their locally prescribed incidental charges generally apply except that so-called "snow emergency rates" do not apply to interstate trips 4/ and a uniform charge of 75¢ for each additional passenger in excess of one has been adopted, with an exception for children.

1/ The Metropolitan District includes the District of Columbia, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church, Va., the counties of Arlington and Fairfax, Va., and Montgomery and Prince George's Md., and Dulles International Airport.

2/ See Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 8.

3/ This practice may be traced to Order No. 67, served October 9, 1961.

4/ Order No. 2213, served April 13, 1981.

District of Columbia taxicabs, however, operate on a zone basis which is not readily adaptable to interstate use. For these taxicabs the Commission has implemented a system of interstate rates based on odometer mileage. The level of these rates was established most recently by Order No. 2334, served May 7, 1982. The following table sets forth comparative rate information as of May 17, 1982, the date on which Order No. 2334 became effective.

TABLE I

	<u>Actual Rates</u>		<u>Rates Converted To Miles</u>	
	<u>Initial Charge</u>	<u>Rate After Initial charge</u>	<u>First Mile</u>	<u>Subsequent Mile</u>
Alexandria	\$.90 1st 1/9	10¢ each 1/9	\$1.70	\$.90
Arlington	.90 1st 1/10	10¢ each 1/10	\$1.80	\$1.00
District of Columbia	1.70 1st mile	50¢ each 1/2	\$1.70	\$1.00
Fairfax - Falls Church	.90 1st 3/10	10¢ each 1/10	\$1.60	\$1.00
Montgomery	.90 1st 3/9	10¢ each 1/9	\$1.50	\$.90
Prince George's	1.00 1st 3/10	10¢ each 1/10	\$1.90	\$1.00

The following table compares the interstate fares at the different rates for single-passenger trips of 5, 10, and 15 miles without incidental charges, as of May 17, 1982, the effective date of Order No. 2334.

TABLE 1A

	<u>5 Miles</u>	<u>10 Miles</u>	<u>15 Miles</u>
Alexandria	\$5.30	\$ 9.80	\$14.30
Arlington	\$5.80	\$10.80	\$15.80
District of Columbia	\$5.70	\$10.70	\$15.70
Fairfax - Falls Church	\$5.60	\$10.60	\$15.60
Montgomery	\$5.10	\$ 8.70	\$12.30
Prince George's	\$5.90	\$10.90	\$15.90

Since Order No. 2334 was issued, some of the local jurisdictions using meters have prescribed new, higher local rates. Under our Order No. 67, these increases are automatically incorporated into the interstate fare system. 5/

5/ "Snow emergency rates," referred to above, were not in effect at the time that Order No. 67 was considered, and have never been adopted by this Commission. Accordingly, they are not automatically incorporated into the interstate fare system and do not apply on any interstate taxicab trips.

Effective March 24, 1985, the District of Columbia Public Service Commission approved increases of 35¢ to \$1.25 in the local zone fares. In addition, the extra passenger rate was increased from 75¢ to \$1.25, the 4 to 6:30 p.m. surcharge was increased from 65¢ to \$1, and the charge for a taxicab employed on an hourly basis was increased from \$9 to \$12 an hour. 6/

The Commission has reviewed the recent local increases and prepared the following two tables reflecting the current interstate rates and fares.

TABLE II

	Actual Rates		Rates Converted To Miles	
	Initial	Rate After	First	Subsequent
	Charge	Initial charge	Mile	Mile
Alexandria	\$.90 1st 1/10	10¢ each 1/10	\$1.80	\$1.00
Arlington	.90 1st 1/10	10¢ each 1/10	\$1.80	\$1.00
District of Columbia	1.70 1st mile	50¢ each 1/2	\$1.70	\$1.00
Fairfax - Falls Church	.90 1st 3/10	10¢ each 1/10	\$1.60	\$1.00
Montgomery	.90 1st 1/5	20¢ each 1/5	\$1.70	\$1.00
Prince George's	1.00 1st 1/10	10¢ each 1/10	\$1.90	\$1.00

TABLE IIA

	<u>5 Miles</u>	<u>10 Miles</u>	<u>15 Miles</u>
Alexandria	\$5.80	\$10.80	\$15.80
Arlington	\$5.80	\$10.80	\$15.80
District of Columbia	\$5.70	\$10.70	\$15.70
Fairfax - Falls Church	\$5.60	\$10.60	\$15.60
Montgomery	\$5.70	\$10.70	\$15.70
Prince George's	\$5.90	\$10.90	\$15.90

The existing interstate party rate for all interstate taxicab service within the Metropolitan District is:

75¢ for each additional passenger in a pre-formed party (provided, however, that one child five (5) years of age or younger shall be transported without charge for each individual of at least sixteen (16) years of age in a preformed party.)

6/ Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, Order No. 8212, served March 14, 1985, in Formal Case No. 820.

The party rates in the local jurisdictions vary from 60¢ to \$1.25, with exceptions for children and senior citizens as shown in the following table:

TABLE III

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Conditions</u>
Alexandria	\$1.00	2 years or older
Arlington	.60	over 6 years
District of Columbia	1.25	
Fairfax/Falls Church	.80	over 12 years; no charge for senior citizens
Montgomery	.75	except groups of senior citizens
Prince George's	1.00	outside County; 50¢ within County; free under 6 years

The Commission shall, on its own motion (see Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 13), institute an investigation to determine whether the current interstate taxicab rates prescribed for taxicabs regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission are unreasonable, or unduly discriminatory or unduly preferential either between riders or sections of the Metropolitan District (see Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 6). If the Commission so finds, then it shall issue an order prescribing the lawful fares, regulations, or practices to be in effect.

The Appendix to this order shows the detail of the existing interstate rates for taxicab service within the Metropolitan District in taxicabs regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission. The charge for extra passengers in a pre-formed party (see footnote a/ to Appendix) is applicable to all interstate taxicab service within the Metropolitan District.

The Commission invites proposals of an appropriate interstate rate structure for taxicabs regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission. In addition, the Commission invites proposals with regard to the uniform extra passenger charge prescribed for all interstate taxicab service with the Metropolitan District. The proposals should be supported with statements including detailed justification for any proposed change. These proposals, justifications, and statements should be filed with the Commission in writing on or before May 17, 1985.

The prescription of new interstate rates, if any, as a result of this investigation could also affect the rates prescribed for (1) Air Transit, Inc., 7/ and (2) so-called "gypsy" taxicabs, which are "other vehicles used in performing bona fide taxicab service" 8/ which are not licensed and regulated as taxicabs by one of the jurisdictions in the Metropolitan District and which are excluded 9/ from the ambit of Order No. 2559, served May 24, 1984. Accordingly, proposals, justifications, and statements with regard to these rates are also invited.

The current interstate rates prescribed for Air Transit, Inc., are \$1 for the first 4/10 mile or fraction, plus 20¢ for each additional 1/5 mile or fraction. Waiting time is \$9 an hour. Extra passenger charges, baggage charges, and other miscellaneous charges are generally the same as those prescribed for District of Columbia taxicabs. The current interstate rates prescribed for "gypsy" taxicabs 10/ are identical to those prescribed for District of Columbia taxicabs as shown in the Appendix to this order.

The Commission staff shall cause notice of this order to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District.

7/ Air Transit operates taxicab service from Dulles International Airport (Dulles) to points located within the Metropolitan District. As pertinent here, the Commission can prescribe taxicab rates from a point in one Compact signatory to a point in another Compact signatory when both points are within the Metropolitan District. See Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 8. Therefore, the rates here involved are between Dulles, which is located in Virginia, on the one hand, and on the other, points in the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, Md., and Prince George's County, Md. See Order Nos. 2335 and 2340, served May 7, 1982, respectively, in Case No. MP-82-05.

8/ Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 1(c).

9/ Order No. 2559, served May 24, 1984, page 16, ordering paragraph 3. Also see discussion at pages 14-15 of Order No. 2559. Also see Order No. 2336, served May 7, 1982, in Case No. MP-82-05. This essentially means that any new interstate rates would apply to so-called "gypsy" taxicabs but not to so-called "VIP limousine" services.

10/ See Order No. 2336, served May 7, 1982, in Case No. MP-82-05.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED:


1. That an investigation be made of the interstate taxicab rates for taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia, for taxicabs operated by Air Transit, Inc., and for so-called "gypsy" taxicabs as described hereinbefore.

2. That this investigation shall include the uniform extra passenger charge applicable to all interstate taxicab service within the Metropolitan District.

3. That the Commission staff shall cause notice of this order to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District on or before April 22, 1985.

4. That any person desiring to file with the Commission written proposals, justifications, and statements on this matter shall do so on or before May 17, 1985.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION, COMMISSIONERS WORTHY, SCHIFTER, AND SHANNON:


WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director

INTERSTATE TAXICAB RATES
FOR TAXICAB SERVICE WITHIN THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT
(in taxicabs licensed and regulated by the
District of Columbia Public Service Commission)
EFFECTIVE MAY 17, 1982

- \$1.70 First mile or part thereof
- .50 Each additional 1/2 mile or part thereof
- .75 Each additional passenger in a pre-formed party
(provided, however, that one child five (5)
years of age or younger shall be transported
without charge for each individual of at least
sixteen (16) years of age in a pre-formed
party.) a/

Hand baggage, including large bags of groceries or articles of similar size, in excess of one piece per passenger shall be charged for at the rate of 15¢ for each such piece. Briefcases and parcels of comparable size shall not be considered as hand baggage.

Trunks or similar large articles shall be charged for at the rate of \$1.25 each. A trunk is herein defined as a piece of baggage having a minimum dimension or cubic content in excess of 32 inches by 18 inches by 9 inches or 3 cubic feet.

The charge for personal service shall be 65¢; taxicab service in response to a telephone call, 65¢ in addition to all other authorized charges; dismissal of a taxicab without using it after response to a telephone call, 65¢ in addition to the charge for responding; waiting time, b/ 75¢ for each 5 minutes or fraction thereof.

The charge for a taxicab employed on an hourly basis shall be as follows: for the first hour or fraction thereof -- \$9;
for each additional 15 minutes or fraction thereof -- \$2.25.

There shall be no additional charge for service during traffic rush hours or snow emergency periods.

a/ This method of charging for extra passengers shall apply to all interstate taxicab service within the Metropolitan District.

b/ Waiting time shall include time consumed while taxicab is waiting and available to the passenger beginning 5 minutes after the time of arrival at the place to which it has been called. No charge shall be made for premature response to a call.